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Virginia Farmers Planting More Soybeans and Cotton

RICHMOND, Va. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Acreage and Grain Stocks reports today, showing Virginia farmers are planting more soybeans and cotton this year than last.

“Soybeans and cotton planted acreage are estimated to be more than 2017, while corn and peanuts planted acreage are estimated to be down from last year,” said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. “The crops were reported in mostly good condition.”

Soybeans planted in Virginia were estimated at 620,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2017. Acres harvested for grain, at 610,000 acres, was 20,000 acres above acres a year ago. U.S. soybean planted area for 2018 was estimated at 89.6 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 88.9 million acres, is down 1 percent from 2017.

Acreage planted to corn in Virginia was estimated at 490,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2017. Acres harvested for grain was estimated at 330,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. The U.S. corn planted for all purposes in 2018 was estimated at 89.1 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 81.8 million acres for grain, down 1 percent from last year.

Upland cotton acreage in Virginia was estimated at 85,000, up 1,000 acres from 2017. The U.S. total upland cotton acreage is estimated at 13.3 million acres, up 7 percent from the previous year.

Peanut growers in the Commonwealth planted 23,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 2017. Producers expect to harvest 23,000 acres of peanuts this year, also down 4,000 acres from 2017. U.S. peanuts planted was estimated at 1.50 million acres, down 20 percent from 2017. Area harvested was forecast at 1.46 million acres, down 18 percent from last year.

Farmers in Virginia intend to set an estimated 1,000 acres of burley tobacco for harvest. This was 100 acres below the 2017 level. Dark fire-cured tobacco acreage set was estimated at 280 acres, up 10 acres from the previous year. Flue-cured tobacco acreage was estimated at 22,000 acres, unchanged from a year ago. Flue-cured producing states acreage for harvest was estimated at 204,500 acres, 2 percent below last year.

Barley seeded acreage is estimated at 40,000 acres, up 33 percent from last year. Barley producers anticipate harvesting 11,000 acres for grain, unchanged from last year. Barley planted for the Nation was estimated at 2.55 million acres, up 3 percent from 2017. Acres harvested for grain is forecast at 2.05 million acres, up 5 percent from last year.

Winter wheat seeded acreage in Virginia was estimated at 220,000 acres, 10,000 acres above the previous year. Acreage harvested for grain was estimated at 150,000 acres, 5,000 acres above 2017. The U.S. winter wheat planted area was estimated at 32.7 million acres, up slightly from 2017. Area harvested for grain was forecast at 24.8 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay acreage in Virginia was estimated at 45,000 acres, down 10,000 from the 2017 crop. All other hay was estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 100,000 from a year ago. The U.S. all hay acreage was estimated at 55.1 million acres, up 2 percent from 2017.

Planted and Harvested Acres, June 2018 - Virginia and United States

	Virginia				United States			
	Planted ¹		Harvested ¹		Planted ¹		Harvested ¹	
	2017 (1,000 acres)	2018 (1,000 acres)	2017 (1,000 acres)	2018 ² (1,000 acres)	2017 (1,000 acres)	2018 (1,000 acres)	2017 (1,000 acres)	2018 ² (1,000 acres)
Barley ³	30	40	11	11	2,481	2,549	1,954	2,046
Corn	500	490	340	330	90,167	89,128	82,703	81,770
Cotton ⁴	84	85	83	--	12,613	13,518	11,100	--
Soybeans	600	620	590	610	90,142	89,557	89,522	88,862
Peanut	27	23	27	23	1,871	1,502	1,776	1,461
Wheat, Winter ³	210	220	145	150	32,696	32,732	25,291	24,831
Hay:								
All	--	--	1,205	1,095	--	--	53,784	55,068
Alfalfa	--	--	55	45	--	--	16,563	17,351
Other, All	--	--	1,150	1,050	--	--	37,221	37,717
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Tobacco:								
All	--	--	23,370	23,280	--	--	321,470	303,680
Burley	--	--	1,100	1,000	--	--	81,500	69,800
Dark Fire-Cured	--	--	270	280	--	--	19,270	18,080
Flue-Cured	--	--	22,000	22,000	--	--	209,500	204,500

¹ Commodities with planted or harvested estimates not available are denoted by "--". ² Forecasted. ³ Includes area planted in preceding fall. ⁴U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.